

Tokyo Dreams

Explore one of the coolest and edgiest cities in the world which will be home to the 2020 Olympics, from the beautiful and charming Palace Hotel Tokyo



Sridevi was recently in Tokyo for the Japanese premiere of *English Vinglish*

A trip to Tokyo is on most people's bucket list and with good reason. It has old-world charm and is steeped in tradition and culture but then again it's also super-efficient, high-tech and extremely lively. That's not all, you won't be able to get enough of the fabulous food in this city, there's no dearth of unique and wacky things to see and do, it's a shopper's paradise and the sophisticated transit system is quite possibly the best in the world.

What better way to check out Japan's amazing capital than by staying at the newly renovated Palace Hotel Tokyo which is located in Marunouchi in the very heart of the city and also has access to the metro from the main lobby. It's also a stone's throw from the Imperial Palace gardens. Get ready to experience exceptional service, a fabulous concierge team and luxury like never before. Oh! Be sure to keep an eye out for the gorgeous pieces of art across the property too.

EVIAN SPA

The first in Japan, the pristine and minimalist evian SPA sends you into a state of bliss from the moment you set foot into it. It has five treatment rooms, a spa suite, a marble sauna, a plunge pool, heated baths (which was amazing) and more. With all the shopping and sightseeing I had been doing, I opted for The Vitalizing Signature treatment which is created exclusively for the spa. It's a therapeutic blend of traditional Japanese *seitai* trigger point work with a Swedish-style deep tissue massage. The results? My very knowledgeable therapist made my legs and back feel like brand new and I was reenergised for the next few action-packed days ahead. That's not all, it also has a state-of-the-art fitness facility for those of you who want to burn off all the extra calories whilst in Tokyo.

Swim laps and enjoy great views from this 20-meter lap pool with a Jacuzzi



The super relaxing couple suite



WORDS: VIBHA DANIA-DHAWAN; PICTURES: SUPPLIED



The luxurious bathroom in the Grand Deluxe Room

THE ROOMS

While there are many types of rooms to choose from at the Palace Hotel Tokyo, we stayed in a very cosy, elegant and spacious Deluxe Room with a balcony and a lounge area. It's decorated in soft muted hues with splashes of green and dotted with beautiful pieces of art. The floor-to-ceiling windows are a nice touch as our room was filled with light during the day while the expansive views of the glittering skyline at night left us amazed. Our rain shower boasted a TV screen and we were also treated to Anne Semonin toiletries and 300-thread count Imabari towels. Wow! That's not all, the service we experienced in our rooms was flawless just like the rest of the property.



The plush Deluxe Room

ROOM RATES:

There are 278 stunning Deluxe Rooms to choose from:

- Deluxe Rooms starting at Dhs1,506
- Grand Deluxe Rooms starting at Dhs2,047
- Club Deluxe Rooms starting at Dhs1,866

* Rates include tax

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The stunning interiors of Wadakura restaurant

THE CULINARY EXPERIENCE

Whether it's fine French cuisine at Crown, authentic Japanese at Wadakura or refined Shanghaiese and Cantonese at Amber Palace, you will be spoiled for choice at the Palace Hotel Tokyo. The all-day dining Grand Kitchen is where we had our daily hearty breakfast which was a delicious mix of international and Japanese fare. Try and get a table on the terrace overlooking the moat. It's a beautiful way to start your day.

WADAKURA

We decided to try out Wadakura which pays tribute to Japan's cuisine and houses four mini-restaurants within – tempura at Tatsumi, teppanyaki at GO, sushi at Sushi Kanesaka and favourites such as sukiyaki and seasonal kaiseki-style chef's tastings in its main dining room. Aside from the delicious lobster teppanyaki and tender Kobe beef my partner and I devoured at GO, we were also highly impressed by the interiors which featured textured walls crafted by Naoki Kusumi and naguri-style woodwork on the floors.



Enjoy over 48 varieties of tea at The Palace Lounge

TOKYO HOTSPOTS

Whether you want to soak in the sights, shop till you drop or eat at one of the best sushi restaurants in the world, you can do it all in this super lively city:

Make a Wish at the Meiji Shrine

Walk around the serene Meiji Shrine which is dedicated to the late 19th-century emperor who opened Japan to the West and be sure to write a wish on a small wooden tablet and hang it beneath the Camphor tree.



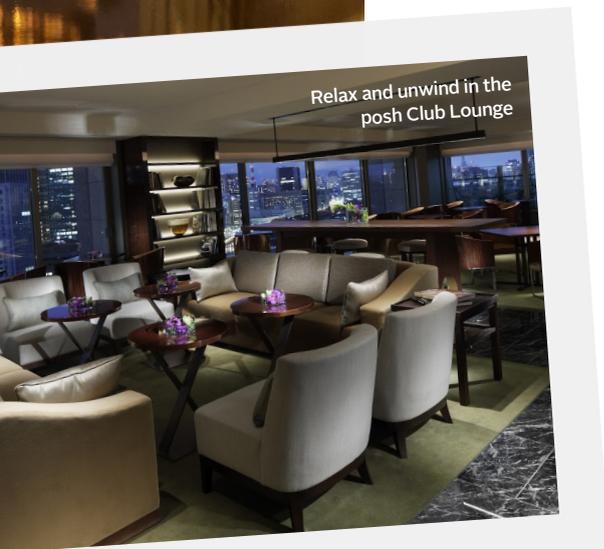
Dine at Sukiyabashi Jiro

Experience sushi like never before at this three Michelin-starred restaurant in a subway station run by 89-year-old master Chef Jiro Ono. President Obama just dined here too.



Visit Scramble Crossing

The lights turn red at this busy junction at the same time in every direction. Watching the pedestrians spill into the intersection from all sides is quite a cool sight.



Relax and unwind in the posh Club Lounge

THE CLUB LOUNGE

Whether it's for a quiet breakfast before you head out for the day, an afternoon tea or evening cocktails and canapés, this exclusive and very luxurious Club Lounge which is accessible to Club Suite and Club Room guests offers all this and more.